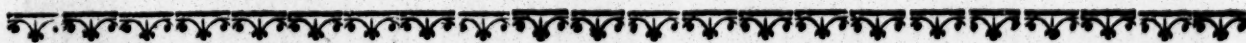




THE  
HISTORY  
OF THE  
Rise, Opposition to, and Establishment  
OF THE  
EDINBURGH REGIMENT.

*Audiet cives acuisse ferrum.*

HOR.



THE BRITISH MUSEUM

HISTORY  
OF THE  
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EDINBURGH REGIMENT.

HOR.

Major-General James

THE BRITISH MUSEUM



THE  
HISTORICAL  
OF THE  
EDINBURGH REGIMENT.

*Audiet cives acuisse ferrum.*

HOR.

**A**T a time, when the indifferent success which has hitherto attended the British arms, and when the inefficacy of the means employed for crushing a most unnatural and unprovoked rebellion, awaken deep concern in the breast of every true Briton, I feel myself not a little comforted in surveying that general spirit of indignation which blazes up against the rebellious authors of our misfortunes.

As a citizen of Edinburgh, I feel a peculiar satisfaction in the spirited measures which this city has adopted, for strengthening the hands of government, by raising an *Edinburgh regiment*, thereby testifying to the public, that we have the spirit to lend a more vigorous aid to government, than the empty compliment of an address.



I confess, however, that the satisfaction I enjoy is chequered with feelings of a very different nature, when I observe how a certain *faction* among us have conducted themselves upon this occasion : A faction who have ever been inimical to the city of Edinburgh, who have seldom been ardent, and never steady in defence of government ; and whose leader, although bound in the strongest manner to his Royal Master, from the sacred importance of the offices committed to his trust ; from folly, or disaffection, or both, has not scrupled to check, to the utmost of his power, a measure calculated, as much as any can be, to strengthen the hands of government, by the display of zealous and active loyalty to the best of Princes.

I apprehend there are few stronger motives to the exertion of virtuous, and depressing of blame-worthy actions, than an hearty and general applause bestowed upon the former, and a public and warm indignation expressed against the latter : And I am confident, that no measure can tend more to prevent *ambitious and unworthy people* from wriggling themselves into power, than to detect the malignity of their intentions, and dangerous tendency of their pursuits. These considerations have led me to publish ‘ *An History of the Edinburgh Regiment.*’ I intend no more than a simple narrative, unembellished, and even unrefined by studious attention ; and, at the same time, that it shall be my principal care to avoid misrepresentation ; yet I do not pretend that my information must be altogether so correct, that, in some minute circumstances, I may not be mistaken ; and, if such shall occur, I shall think myself obliged to any person who will undeceive the public, by correcting my mistakes.

In the reign of James IV. the city of Edinburgh raised a numerous body of men, who, accompanied by *the whole magistrates*, attended their Sovereign in the rash and unfortunate expedition which terminated in the field of Flowden. In a succeeding period,



period, the city both raised men and advanced money to defend the person, and support the interests of James VI.; and, in the reigns of both the Charles's, as well as that of George I. the city gave reiterated proofs of her loyalty.

At a period of such critical importance to Britain, when the forces already employed to crush the American rebellion have not been proportioned to the end, or at least have failed in success, it became the duty of the city of Edinburgh to follow the honourable example which MANCHESTER has afforded; and, by raising a regiment, at once to testify her concurrence with the measures of government, and give them a solid support.

In pursuance of so laudable a purpose, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh waited on the Lord Advocate, communicated his intentions to him; never doubting to receive that encouragement, which, considering the high offices he held under the crown, it was his Lordship's duty, in a peculiar manner, to afford; and which his situation, as member for the county, gave him additional opportunities to bestow. But,

*'Quem Deus vult perdere,'—*

his Lordship, a great officer of state, and enjoying, *at present*, high emoluments under the crown, answered to this purpose: 'That we were already loaded with too heavy taxes, and that it would be absurd in us to burthen ourselves voluntarily: And further, *that the English would say*, we are always seeking pretences for getting arms into our hands, and, after we had got them, *might make a bad use of them*: That, on these accounts, he could give his Lordship's proposal no encouragement.'

Thus did the Lord Advocate refuse his concurrence to a measure which was to strengthen the hands of government, at the same time that it would acquire popularity to himself; for it must be

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observed, that his Lordship, with a view to his political purposes, has of late been courting the affections of a city, over whom it has uniformly been the business of him, and his family, to exercise tyranny and oppression.

His Lordship's conduct, and that of the Great Man he makes his dupe, are the more surprising, that they might have arrogated to themselves, and their party, the sole merit of patronizing the Edinburgh regiment; for, as the Lord Provost had, at that time, sent no intimation of his purpose to Sir Laurence Dundas, they would have had the start of him by at least *nine days*.

Baffled in his idea of obtaining encouragement from the Lord Advocate, the Lord Provost had recourse to the city's representative, who expressed his warm approbation of the measure, at the same time, subscribing a *thousand guineas* to promote it.

An Edinburgh regiment being resolved on, the Lord Advocate determined to oppose, as much as possible, in others, what he himself would not encourage. His emissaries were accordingly set to work; and he expected, from his political partizans, an hearty concurrence *in opposing the measures of the court*.

The Conveener of the Trades was applied to; and, after a proper *quantum* of coaxing and cajoling applied by the ingenious Mr Stodart, agreed to oppose the motion when it should be debated in council. He was not, however, to head the opposition; that was left to the abilities and *fidelity* of Bailie Stirling, Mr Stodart himself being *unfortunately* out of council. Next day the matter was agitated accordingly; but Mr Stodart's troops felt the absence of their leader. The Lord Provost having proposed in council, that a regiment should be raised, asked the opinion of Bailie Hunter; who declaring a warm approbation, his Lordship next requested the  
sentiments



sentiments of the Conveener. The poor Conveener was sadly puzzled.—He would not venture to head the opposition. He could not, however, remain silent. He made wry faces to Bailie Stirling.—Stirling stared at him; the Provost still urging an answer, while this dumb-show was acting. At last this answer was squeezed from the Conveener: ‘That his constituents had not instructed him.’

The subscription being set on foot, the citizens manifested the loyalty of their sentiments by the liberality of their subscriptions. Even my Lord Advocate’s friends, the trades themselves, were guilty of unpardonable treason against the house of ARNISTON, in not attending to the sentiments of that haughty family, in preference to their own opinions, and to the good of the country. In two days, about five thousand pounds were subscribed, merely from the voluntary zeal of the citizens; unassisted by the ministry; unassisted by the clergy; discountenanced by the Lord Advocate, at the head of the whole body of law, and publicly, yet obliquely railed against *from the bench*, by the Lord President of the Court of Session; who, at the same time, grossly insulted the whole British army\*: The town of Leith, unconnected with *politics* and *parties*, lending to the Edinburgh regiment a liberal assistance.

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\* On Thursday the 15th of January, in a cause depending between Mr Wedderburn of Ballindean, and an African negro, contending for his freedom, the Lord President, who was *on the side of slavery*, spoke to this purpose:

‘Why should it be said we have no slaves in this country?—What are these fellows that we see walking about the streets with feathers in their caps?—so proud of their belts and trappings; are not they slaves? *ay, and the worst of slaves!*—These can lawfully be sent out of the country: But, were a shipmaster attempting to carry any of his Majesty’s free subjects abroad, it would be highly proper for a JUDGE TO

‘INTERFERE,



The wild schemes of the Lord Advocate have as often amazed, as their ridiculous terminations have pleased me : But, although I am nowise disposed to entertain profound respect for his Lordship, I found it out of my power to believe, that he would adopt so extraordinary a conduct as his present, till the event corrected my incredulity.

Since he commenced politician, his conduct has indeed been so extravagant, that, upon reflection, I do not wonder at his acting *wrong by design*, but at his never acting *right by mistake*. And unfortunately, he communicates the same absurdity to those over whom he has any influence. The *silence* of the Duke of Buccleugh upon this occasion, and the *noise* of the faculty of Advocates, (both of whom are his cullies), deserve equally to be attended to as proofs of this position.

The Duke of Buccleugh, embarked, or rather *inveigled*, in the same desperate cause with his Lordship, from his political pursuits, has every inducement to court the affections of the citizens of Edinburgh. His concerns in the national welfare, as a nobleman of vast property, unite him more solidly to its interests. One would naturally expect that a peer of the first rank, and the most extensive opulence, would aid the cause of his sovereign, and give support, against turbulent and rebellious subjects, to a constitution where he has so much at stake ; yet his Grace, in these predicaments, aggravated by his descent from the *blood royal*, by his neglect of the example of his illustrious ancestors, and that of  
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‘ INTERFERE, AND LAY AN EMBARGO UPON THE SHIP.’—What use the House of Commons may make of this note, or what may be the consequences, I shall not pretend to determine.



the noble representatives of the houses of HAMILTON and ATHOL, forgetting the dignity of his order, attention to his interest, and, (I may add), *the golden box in his Grace's charter-chest, covering the freedom of the city of Edinburgh bestowed on the illustrious Monmouth, for crushing rebellion at Bothwell-bridge*, reclines supinely at Dalkeith, courts a deacon, or manages a dirty law-suit in the Court of Session, while he discourages an *Edinburgh Regiment*, and when Citizens and Common Council-men are testifying their loyalty to the best of Princes.

As for the Faculty of Advocates, I can assign to their conduct no deliberate motive, but that of convincing the world that the family of Arncliffe possess over them an hereditary influence: That the same family, which, in the reign of Queen Ann, led them to commit *treason*, can still induce them, (at least in this instance), *not to discourage rebellion*.

The conduct of this honourable and learned fraternity was indeed so singular, that it deserves to be minutely described. I shall, therefore, according to the best information I could procure, relate the particulars, as a *beacon* to the city of Edinburgh, guarding them against a rock, on whose summit is erected their beloved idol; before whom the Faculty prostrate themselves, and who is anxious to stretch his *iron sceptre* over this devoted city.

This learned Faculty form their deliberations with *close doors*; and, indeed, if their usual resolutions were like their last, it would be much to the credit of their order that they were buried in eternal silence. This secrecy of their councils might, perhaps, apologize for errors, which, however, I am persuaded, I shall not commit.

The Lord Advocate announced to his brethren, that, as Dean of Faculty, he had received a letter from the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, expressing the city's intention of raising a regiment; and

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their hopes, that the Faculty, as a part of the community, would encourage the measure; he, at the same time, fell upon the knack of asking the librarian, who is keeper of the records, *If there was any precedent?* The meaning, and the upshot of this question were obvious; but his Lordship might, with equal propriety, have asked, 'If any British provinces had revolted, since those now annexed to the crown of France?' or, 'If any Lord Advocate had been guilty of the most signal and complicated treachery to his Sovereign, since the days of Sir Thomas Hope?' The Lord Advocate's sentiments were understood by the whole Faculty; but it is only upon report and probability that I mention his Lordship's having communicated to his confidential brethren his aversion to an Edinburgh regiment. Be that as it may, the scheme was opposed by gentlemen, who expressed, in particular, great indignation at their being considered as a part of the Community of Edinburgh \*.

Upon this, the Lord Advocate proposed, that he should send an answer to the Lord Provost, intimating, that, as the Faculty had made a resolution not to alienate any part of their funds, they could not subscribe to an Edinburgh regiment. This was acquiesced in, till *Mr Ilay Campbell* observed, that it would be very blunt to return such an answer, without so much as paying the Magistrates a compliment upon the zeal they had manifested in support of government, which he proposed might be done; and further, that, although the Faculty should give away no part of their public

\* This insolent and affected rage at being called a part of the community, is equally absurd and unjust. It is a mere quibble to save their money, and colour over their disaffection. The Faculty of Advocates are a body corporate; they meet at Edinburgh: The Lord Provost addressed them at the only part on earth where they can assemble as a body corporate, without being authorised by his Majesty's express command. Must I tell these learned gentlemen, that *Rome* was the *commune forum* of every Roman? Is not *Edinburgh* the *commune forum* of every Scotsman? *Must not every Scotsman who is in the East-Indies, when needing a certificate from a magistrate in this country, have that certificate from the Lord Provost of Edinburgh alone?*



public funds, still *the Dean should recommend it to the members to subscribe out of their own pockets towards the Edinburgh regiment.* Upon this the Lord Advocate, Dean of Faculty, requested the opinion of his brethren, using, at the same time, those expressive words: 'For my own part, *I know not whether I shall subscribe or not.*' Instantly, a gentleman, who holds an office under his Lordship, and whose rhetoric has not unaptly been compared to an empty cart rapidly rattling along a causeway, got up, and uttered a violent rhapsody against an Edinburgh regiment. 'What!' says one, 'dictate to me to subscribe?' Ay, and that to an *Edinburgh regiment* too (says another); What business have we to do with the City of Edinburgh? *Had it been the county, it would have been a very different affair?* Says a third, They have had the insolence to term us a part of the community of Edinburgh; but we are no part of the community; *ergo*, We will give them no answer at all. *Nay*, says a fourth, *they have had the impudence to call us a respectable body*; I'll lay my life they called the \*Cadies no less. Upon this a wagg observed, that, if the Cadies were not the most respectable, they were at least the most useful body of the two; and that, since the Faculty would not part with their *money*, he thought they might, at least, part with their *men*, without doing any detriment to the order.

My friend told me, that many observations of similar importance were made, interlarded with gross reflections against the magistrates of Edinburgh, terming the scheme for an Edinburgh regiment, 'a dirty job, that could in no ways be serviceable to government.' My friend added, that Mr Solicitor-general and Mr Ferguson of Pitfour, vindicated the magistrates from these aspersions; at the same time, that some of the *city's assessors* were not ashamed to oppose an *Edinburgh regiment*.

Upon this, the scroll of a letter was framed by *the Lord Advocate's*

\* Errand boys.



*cate's own hand*, setting forth, ' That the Faculty had formed a  
' resolution not to apply their funds to any purposes but those to  
' which they were strictly appropriated ; and therefore, as a body  
' corporate, they could not subscribe : That they approved of the  
' zeal which the magistrates had shewn in support of government ;  
' and that he (the Dean) doubted not, but, as individuals, the Fa-  
' culty would promote every measure which they *considered as*  
' *such* ;' which was, in as many words, *That they did not consider*  
*the raising an Edinburgh regiment as such.*

This matter being so happily adjusted, it remained only that the Faculty should ask their Dean to name a day when he would do them the honour to dine with them, which his Lordship accordingly was *graciously* pleased to appoint. And this piece of adulation is the first of the kind that ever happened in that fraternity.

That the reader may be enabled to contemplate the patriotism and loyalty of this learned body, I must remind him, that, within these very few years, the \* Faculty, solicited by those of its members who are most forward in opposing the present subscription, *subscribed*

\* Besides the applause due to the Town-Council of Edinburgh and Sir Laurence Dundas, for their liberal subscriptions, and their patronage of this scheme, thanks are due, in a particular manner, to Sir John Dalrymple Baron of Exchequer, who, early in this American dispute, distinguished himself, by a very able defence of the rights of the mother country ; and who now, besides a liberal subscription, has exerted much activity in promoting this patriotic measure. An hearty applause is also due to Lord Elliock, to Sir James Clark, to Sir William Forbes, to David Stewart Moncrief, Esq; Mr Oliphant of Rossie, Post-master General, to William Millar, Esq; advocate, son to the Lord Justice Clerk, whose liberality of mind, and vigour of genius, present a very flattering prospect, to the House of Messrs Mansfield, Ramsay, and Co. to the incorporations of bakers and hammermen, the writers to the signet, the professors of the University, and the Speculative Society, as well as many others, whom, for want of room or recollection, I omit.—Now for the reverse. The Duke of Buccleugh has subscribed,—*Not a farthing.* The Lord President,—*Not a farthing.* Mr Sheriff Cockburn, the Lord Advocate's brother-in-law,—*Not a farthing.* All the gentlemen of  
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*bed largely to bring Mrs Yates from London to perform on the Edinburgh theatre, altho' they now will not give a farthing to support the insulted Majesty of the crown, nor the violated rights of the British empire.*

This conduct of the Faculty seems the more desperate in its design, and more pernicious in its effect, as it breathes this language :

‘ Be it known to all the Societies and Corporations in the British dominions, but more especially in Scotland, That We, the Dean and Faculty of Advocates, *who, on former occasions, in times of public trouble, used to regiment and arm ourselves in support of established government*, do now, by this our example and public testimony of our opinion, recommend it to all the said respective Societies and Corporations, to lend no more assistance to government than We ourselves do.’

The behaviour of the Faculty, disgraceful as it has been represented, must incur additional reproach, when we reflect on the loyal and spirited conduct of the Writers to the Signet, a society the most nearly allied to the Advocates ; yet who, despising the envious policy of the Lord Advocate, and the pernicious example set them \* by the Faculty, have, in the warmest terms, expressed

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the county in his Lordship's political interest, (Mr Stewart Moncrief excepted,)——  
*Not a farthing. The Lord Advocate, joint keeper of the signet, Dean of the Faculty of Advocates, member for the county, assessor to the city of Edinburgh, and assessor to the Royal Boroughs,*  
 ——NOT ONE FARTHING. I had almost been guilty of an unpardonable omission, in neglecting to pay that tribute of applause so justly due to John Mackenzie of Delvin, Esq; *depute-keeper of the signet*, who, far from following the example of the *keeper of the signet*, recommended to his brethren, in the warmest manner, to testify, by a liberal subscription, their sincere attachment to Government. See, in the Edinburgh Courant and Caledonian Mercury, of the 21st January, a most judicious, manly, and polite address, by this gentleman to his brethren.

\* When the heritable jurisdictions were abolished after the rebellion 1745, the writers to the signet were represented as disaffected to Government; and although by law



their attachment to government, and subscribed, out of their own pockets, *five hundred guineas towards the Edinburgh regiment.*

After what I have related, the reader will probably pre-occupy me in these reflections : ‘ That the Lord Advocate, in the impetuosity  
‘ of his career, has utterly forgotten, that it is in the power of his Majesty and his ministers to give a very proper lesson to this country,  
‘ by signifying their displeasure against his Lordship, and punishing *his turbulence, disaffection, and ingratitude, by stripping him  
‘ of all his offices ;* and that the lawyers, a set of men who, from  
‘ their train of thinking, as well as their interest, are generally attached to the crown, have forgotten their own dignity, have lost  
‘ sight of their own interest, and that the duty which they owe to  
‘ *their Sovereign*, like a drop in the bucket, is lost in the excess of  
‘ submission which they pay to *his servant.*’

As to the Faculty losing a sense of their own interest—this requires an explanation. For, although their respect to the Lord Advocate amounts almost to *adoration*, yet there is no *idol* the Faculty are so fond of as a *golden one*.—But the matter is shortly this : Although the Faculty would not worship their *Dean* in opposition to their *interest*, yet, as he has the disposal of some offices which  
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law they, as well as the advocates, may be appointed supreme judges in Scotland ; yet, on account of this supposed disaffection of the writers, they were then excluded by statute from being made sheriffs-depute ; and these offices were solely conferred upon advocates.—Mark the consequence. At the very next rebellion !—Hail gratitude !—Hail loyalty !—Hail Dean of Faculty and your servile train ! The writers to the signet subscribe five hundred guineas for support of Government, while the Faculty of Advocates subscribe not a farthing, discountenance the measures of Government, and while *one of their number* publishes letters in the news-papers, favourable to the American quarrel. See Caledonian Mercury 17th January. The Ministry would do well to check the petulant disaffection of the Faculty, *by filling up the next vacancy on the bench with a writer to the signet.*



are naturally bestowed at his recommendation, as member for the county, and Lord Advocate; by the help of this circumstance, that arrogant presumption, and those blustering airs, which are natural to his family, he has most artfully impressed upon his brethren, and many others in this country, a most ridiculous notion concerning the importance of his power; and, to that effect, will tell twenty different stories to twenty different people, just as they will best suit his purpose. For instance, he tells to one set of people, That he is to make the Solicitor-General of England member of parliament for Edinburgh: That Lord Suffolk, the said Solicitor-General, and himself, are hand and glove: That, through them, he has the disposal of *all offices in Scotland*: *And, That Lord North has nothing to say in the matter!*—Again, he tells others, that he himself is to be member for Edinburgh; and, to a third class, he will say, he is to make *a certain banker* the member. All of which, I am fully persuaded, are *equally true*. Nay, he had lately the presumption to send a clergyman, the most impudent of his order, to a person of high literary reputation, with a thundering message and declaration, ‘That no person could pretend to rise in Scotland without the patronage of his Lordship and the Duke of Buccleugh.’ Thus does his Lordship’s pompous vanity of pretension impose upon a body who, for half a century, have paid an unlimited and contemptible submission to the Family of Arnishton.

The subscription going on successfully, the town council of Edinburgh approached the throne in a dutiful address, testifying their approbation of the measures of government, and offering to raise a regiment for their support. The address was presented to his Majesty



Majesty by LORD NORTH \*, was graciously received, and the offer of a regiment cheerfully accepted.

It will not be amiss that I should here say a few words in answer to the assertions thrown out by an enraged and disappointed faction, concerning the appointment of the officers.

In a national emergency, when troops are required to be levied with expedition, neither his Majesty, nor his ministers, can raise the levies with sufficient speed, without the aid of those gentlemen, in different parts of the country, who have most influence, are best known to, and best beloved by the commonality. For these reasons, the raising of regiments by persons of the first family and fortune, and by the chief cities and corporations, has, on such occasions, been adopted by government.

It is evident, from a parity of reasoning, that the same expedition in raising recruits, to which the appointment of a *commander* or *patron* to the regiment is favourable, must be augmented by a choice of officers founded on the same principles. This, by the bye, is not only a prudent measure in government, but a just reward to the *patron* of the regiment, who must necessarily be better acquainted with the character and connections of gentlemen who can assist the intended levies, than the secretary at war. So much in general.

As for the list of officers which the town-council has taken the liberty to lay before his Majesty : Of the intended Colonel I shall only say, that he is SIR WILLIAM ERSKINE, *a near relation of the Lord Advocate*; as for the Lieutenant Colonel, I have always understood

\* Lord North, after waiting on his Majesty with the address, immediately as his Lordship returned from court, called on Sir Laurence Dundas, and informed him of his Majesty's having accepted, with pleasure, the affectionate testimony of the loyalty of the city of Edinburgh.



understood, that Major Dundas of Fingask, M. P. was a good officer, a man of spirit, property, character, and consequence. One unpardonable crime, however, (perhaps, in pity, I should only call it misfortune,) attends him,—he is the nephew of Sir Laurence Dundas.—On this single account, I am perfectly sensible, and the whole world will agree with me, that a coward, a bully, and a blackguard, untainted by connection with Sir Laurence Dundas, would have been a much more respectable choice! But, be this as it may, I have to inform my readers, that this appointment was *not only without the interference, but contrary to the request of Sir Laurence Dundas.*

As for the Majors——Is not Captain Gordon an old and respectable officer?—Is not Sir James Murray an officer of spirit, character, and family?—Has not the gallantry of Captain M'Murdoch, an officer who has lost much blood in the service of his country, recommended him as Captain?—Has not the character alone of Captain Murray recommended him, although his family *nearly forfeited their estate*, by the imprudence of their political opposition to Sir Laurence Dundas?—Is not Captain Boyd an officer of the most respectable character?—Is not Captain Maxwell, the nephew of the brave Colonel Maxwell, a gallant officer!——But I cannot run through a tedious, yet respectable list. Let me only add, That the Town Council has behaved with an impartiality which does them the highest honour: That Mr Treasurer Maxwell gave up his pretensions to a commission for *his own son, who is in the army*, while the sons of tradesmen, in the expiring faction, have been promoted to offices of rank.

Having brought to a conclusion my History of the Rise and Establishment of the Edinburgh Regiment, I feel, in the perusal of what I have written, a variety of opposite emotions, joy, concern,

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indignation, and applause. I am deeply concerned, that a formidable rebellion should have made the raising of new levies necessary.—I rejoice that the nation has manifested so much zeal and activity, in support of the rights of the crown and empire of Britain, against her rebellious subjects. I must bestow great applause upon my fellow-citizens in general, for the ardour they have shown, in supporting this loyal and patriotic measure; while I cannot help expressing the most lively indignation against its self-interested, factious, and turbulent opponents.

What remains for me, but to express my sincere wishes, that prosperity may crown the British arms, and that the gallant conduct of the EDINBURGH REGIMENT may make a conspicuous figure in the history of the extinction of American rebellion.

*Edinburgh, January 24. 1778.*



# S U P P L E M E N T

T O T H E

## HISTORY of the Edinburgh REGIMENT.

WHEN I wrote the History of the Edinburgh Regiment, a material fact had not come to my knowledge. My idea of the importance of this fact leads me to publish it in a supplement. It demonstrates the Lord Advocate's betraying, at the expence of the most flagrant violation of decorum, the unconquerable perverseness of his opposition to the measures of his Gracious Master.

The conduct of the Faculty, at their meeting, has been already described. Some of its most respectable members had come to the meeting unprepared to oppose, with effect, the extraordinary measures which were then adopted. The more they reflected on the Faculty's conduct, the more they were convinced of its impropriety, and of the reproach which would attend it. This induced about fifteen members, among whom were Mr Solicitor-General, Messrs Ilay Campbell, Ferguson of Pitfour, and Ferguson of Craigdarroch, to request the Lord Advocate to hold a private meeting with them in the Advocate's Library.

The meeting being held, these gentlemen represented to his Lordship their regret for the resolutions of the Faculty, and their wish to wipe out the reproach they had sustained by his Lordship's concurring with them in carrying up a liberal subscription. To this his Lordship made answer, ' I am not applied to, either as Lord Advocate, Dean of Faculty, or Member for the County ; and therefore will give myself no trouble about the matter.'

Thus did his Lordship, in each of his various capacities, in the most deliberate manner, resist the reiterated attempts to prevail on him to countenance, against a most formidable rebellion, an established government, whose misfortune it is that such a man should hold under it so great offices. As Lord Advocate, and Member for the County, he resisted the personal solicitations of the Lord Provost. As Dean of the Faculty of Advocates, he withstood the letter sent to him by his Lordship, which was addressed thus, *To the Lord Advocate*, DEAN



of FACULTY, and in whose contents he is mentioned, ' *as presiding over that respectable body.*' Lastly, assuming his *individual* character, as a private subject, he rejected the pressing instances of his brethren. A shameless evasion was still wanting to complete the picture. This his Lordship filled up on Tuesday morning. In a conversation he then held with the Lord Provost, he said, ' That it was a pity the *History of the Edinburgh Regiment* should have been published, for otherwise the Faculty would have subscribed a THOUSAND GUINEAS.' To this the Lord Provost replied, ' That the Town Council had no concern in that publication.' (And in this he spoke truth; for they knew no more of it than of what was transacting in the Turkish Divan.) ' And why should the Faculty injure their country out of resentment against an anonymous publication?' But his Lordship might have answered more decisively: ' The Faculty must then be endued with the *gift of prophecy*; for their solemn resolution not to subscribe was publicly embraced on the *thirteenth*; the private meeting at which the Lord Advocate again refused to subscribe was held some days after; whereas the History alluded to was not published till the *twenty-fourth*.'

Truth shall be my object; *justice* is the end I have in view. Let me therefore rectify a mistake I committed against the Lord Advocate, by putting in his mouth the paragraph about the English objecting to our having arms put in our hands; see page 5. line 24. Upon more accurate information, I find it was not the Lord Advocate who used this expression, but a third person then in company. Let me add, however, that the Lord Advocate concluded that first conversation thus: ' *Entre nous*, (says he to the Lord Provost), I wish you would throw *cold water* on this affair,' meaning the Edinburgh Regiment. This I know is not mentioned in the letter which, on Tuesday last, immediately before his departure for London, he *impetrated* from the Lord Provost, with a view to *screen* himself; but the reason the Lord Provost gave for omitting the above expression was, ' He did it out of delicacy, as it *would strike too hard*.' 4 JA 5

January 29. 1778.



